

Message Text

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11

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 170715Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6757

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 1983

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, EAID, SA, JO

SUBJECT: VISIT OF JORDANIAN KING TO RIYADH: REQUEST
FOR ASSISTANCE

REF: A) AMMAN 2064; B) AMMAN 2065

1. SAYYID OMAR SAQQAF, SAUDI MINISTER OF STATE FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TOLD THE AMBASSADOR APRIL 15 THAT
KING HUSSEIN CAME TO RIYADH ON APRIL 11 ESSENTIALLY
TO GET MORE MONEY.

2. HE HAD THREE SPECIFIC REQUESTS: A) \$30 MILLION
FOR U.S. ARMS PURCHASES; B) ADDITIONAL BUDGETARY
SUPPORT (SAQQAF DID NOT MENTION A FIGURE); AND C) \$75
MILLION FOR AN AIRPORT IN SOUTHERN JORDAN. THE SAUDIS
AGREED TO FINANCE HALF THE AIRPORT AS SOON AS CONSTRUCTION
BEGINS BUT NOT BEFORE. SAQQAF SAID THEY WOULD STUDY THE
OTHER TWO REQUESTS, BUT HE GAVE NO HOPE THAT THE RESPONSE
WOULD BE POSITIVE.

3. HUSSEIN ALSO DISCUSSED HIS IDEAS ABOUT A PALESTINIAN
ENTITY AND PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT THE GENEVA
CONFERENCE. BUT HE ADDED NOTHING THE SAUDIS HAD NOT
ALREADY READ IN THE FOREIGN PRESS.

4. COMMENT: OMAR SAQQAF IS NOT AN ADMIRER OF KING
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HUSSEIN OR HIS GOVERNMENT, AND HE WILL NOT TRY TO

INFLUENCE THE KING TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING. THE ARDOR OF
SOME OF THE PRINCES' FOR JORDAN ALSO SEEMS TO BE COOLING.
PRINCE SULTAN, MINISTER OF DEFENSE, RECENTLY TOLD THE
AMBASSADOR THAT SAUDI ARABIA WISHED TO HELP CERTAIN OTHER
ARAB COUNTIES. JORDAN WAS CONSPICIOUSLY ABSENT FROM HIS
LISTING.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, FINANCE, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, AIRPORTS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974JIDDA01983
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740088-0641
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740437/aaaabgyv.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: A) AMMAN 2064; B) AMMAN 2065
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF JORDANIAN KING TO RIYADH: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, EAID, SA, JO, (HUSSEIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005